



# Spark Gap

Vol. 36, Issue 4, April 2020 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-six years*

## **ON OUR MARC:**

Welcome Spring!

Well, Spring is in the air but I'm sure that a lot of us wish it was Summer. Maybe things would be back to semi normal for us. As you heard on the Sunday night net, our monthly meeting will be on the air again this month and I am almost certain next month will be the same. I will be surprised if things open up back to normal before June or July. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. It's a rough time for everyone but maybe we are all getting things done around the house that we have been putting off all year.

Our speaker for this month will be Bob Jones, K9NJM, on weather. Bob will talk about the weather class that was held at the Sheriff's department in March and I'm sure he will have a lot of information for us. I have emailed everyone the agenda that Bob put together for us. Please follow along.

May is the start of a summer full of Amateur Radio related activities. It kicks off with the Indiana QSO party, followed by the Strawberry Fest, which not sure if this will happen or not as things are still up in the air, and Field Day. Hope to see you at one, if not all events.

Hope you will join us on the air Saturday.

*Jacki, K16QOG*

President

**\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\*\*\***

***The officer's will hold a meeting on the air MARC Repeater 146.835 – (PL 151.4) this Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 AM.***

***Hope you can make it and hopefully you will have coffee. Sorry, no donuts.***





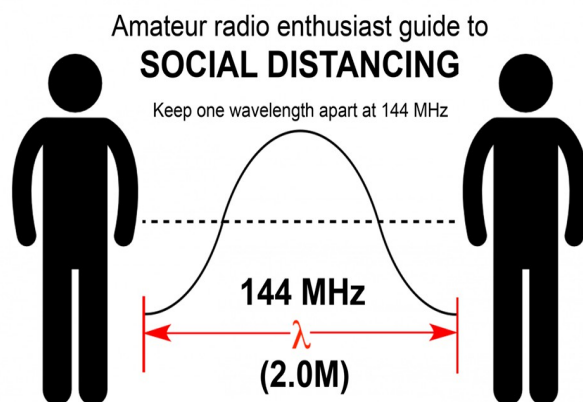
***Birthdays for the month of April:***

***KI6QOG – Jacki Frederick***

***KD9FHI – Bob Cloutier***



While recording a story for Amateur Radio Newsline I thought it appropriate to practice Social Distancing and germ free emails. Here is a picture that was sent with the audio report back to Newsline producer Karen Eve Murry KD2GUT in New Jersey. The report about a MARS Radio exercise will be in this weeks ARNewsline report.  
73, Jack w8ish





MARC Meeting  
April 18, 2020

Conversation led by:  
Bob - kc9njm

### Topics

- Review of the Apr. 8, 2020 weather net
  - <https://www.weather.gov/ind/Apr082020SyWx>
  - Thoughts, suggestions, discussion
- Tour of the NWS Indy website
  - <https://www.weather.gov/ind/>
    - <https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter>
- Tour of NOAA Prediction Centers websites
  - SPC <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/>
  - WPC <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/index.php#page=ovw>
- Useful Apps
  - RadarScope
  - MyRadar
  - Weather Underground, TWC, Storm
  - Dark Sky (iOS only on 7/1/20)
  - NWS Now
  - Windy
  - Locals - WISH, WRTV, WTHR, Weather Authority (Chs. 4, 59)

# ARRL Field Day 2020 -- A Time to Adapt

Many individuals and groups organizing events for ARRL Field Day 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

"Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, or your group to try something new," ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. "Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances."

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how -- and even whether -- you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won't work this year, then it's time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities include:



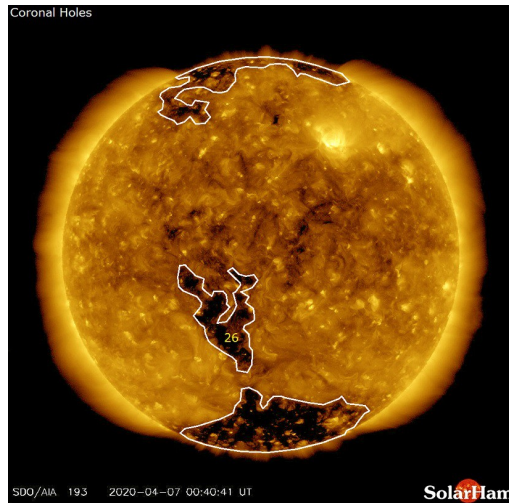
- Encouraging club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Using the club's repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna for family members interested in operating Field Day, who are now unable to participate as part of a larger group.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It's okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

"With any emergency preparedness exercise, it's not about adapting the situation to your operation; it's about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself," Bourque said. "Try something different." Read [more](#). -- *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND*

..... *ARRL News April 2020*



## New Solar Cycle Likely Began Last December

Contester, DXer, and solar watcher Frank Donovan, W3LPL, said, “Some of us have noticed a slight uptick in solar activity since Christmas Eve, when two Solar Cycle 25 spots — AR 2753 and AR 2754 — appeared. Only one of the five subsequent sunspots — AR 2757 — has been from cycle 24. All of the sunspots over the last 12 months have been relatively weak and have had little effect on propagation.” Donovan notes that even though the start of cycle 25 will not officially be declared until later this year, it’s “highly likely” that it started on December 24, 2019.

“The next important event to look for is a strong cycle 25 sunspot, hopefully this year,” he added. Donovan referenced articles from the IOPscience, SyFy Wire, and Watts Up With That? Websites.

..... *ARRL News & SolarHam April 2020*





## ***DAYTON HAMVENTION QSO PARTY***

Let's celebrate the many years we have all had at the Great Gathering we call Hamvention. We also want to remember Ron Moorefield W8ILC who never missed a Hamvention and contributed to our club until his recent death. Let's light up the airwaves with our remembrances of Hamventions of the past! See you on the air! K3LR, Tim Duffy and W8CI, Michael Kalter.

Here is the deal: 12 hour event, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT on Saturday of Hamvention May 16, 2020. Operate CW or SSB on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. The exchange is a signal report and first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention you send 2020.

Send your score (number of QSOs) to 3830scores.com within 5 days of the event. You can print a certificate on line via [www.HVQP.org](http://www.HVQP.org). More details will appear on the Hamvention QSO Party web site being set up now.

Special bonus: W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA is the host of Hamvention) will be activated by designated DARA members from their home stations. You can add 10 points for each band/mode QSO with W8BI (12 available). So you can earn 120 bonus points (like having 120 additional QSOs).

Visit: <https://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=8KGP4&m=i2D06S69Ov08Pns&b=pkdpr8O7bboxNJFnSiyKkA> for the most details for this event

MFJ Enterprises  
300 Industrial Park Rd  
Starkville Mississippi 39759  
USA

*..... from an email sent by MFJ Enterprises, April 2020*



## **UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS**

**04/18/2020 – 0900 MARC Monthly meeting On Air 146.835 MHz – (PL151.4) repeater everyone please join in for our 2nd on-air club meeting.**

**05/16/2020 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.  
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**05/16/2020 – DAYTON HAMVENTION QSO PARTY**

**06/20/2020 – East Central Indiana Hamfest – Randolph County Fairgrounds**

**Hopefully there will be more events to attend when things get back to normal.**

Ham Radio interest “soaring” in wake of Covid-19 pandemic

The number of Americans obtaining their ham radio licenses is soaring as the country comes to grips with the coronavirus pandemic.

Just as shoppers are hoarding necessities and food in panic buying, more people have quickly studied to become amateur radio operators to ensure they can maintain communications with others in emergency situations and disasters.

More than 765,000 in the United States already have their amateur radio licenses from the Federal Communications Commission, however, data from the FCC indicates a recent uptick in the number of new hams, especially since the outbreak of COVID-19 worldwide. In addition, HamRadioPrep.com, a website that teaches prospective hams what they need to know to pass the FCC tests, also has experienced a huge surge in new students in the past two weeks as news continues to evolve about the pandemic.

In a comparison of the time period from March 5-13, 2020, to the same days in 2019, the number of persons signing up for amateur radio license courses on HamRadioPrep.com has soared more than 700% since news of the coronavirus outbreak dominated headlines. At the same time, the FCC shows a 7.1% percent uptick in new amateur licensees in the first week of March in 2020 vs the same week in 2019.

Read more at: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/4623310#ixzz6GyaDCCSz>

..... *Southgate News April 2020*



## MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

**W9MID Repeater:**

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

**Club Officers:**

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG  
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP  
Secretary: Chris Read – W9OQ  
Treasurer: Chris Mazzarella – KC9VGQ  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

**W9MID Repeater:**

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

**Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS**  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

**The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club**

P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131

**Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU**

*Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 2nd week of the month.*



*Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.*